

An observation on *Acherontia atropos* L.

On the Hermigua road west of San Sebastian, La Gomera, Canary Islands, we encountered large numbers of larvae of *A. atropos* feeding on *Nicotiana glauca* growing by the roadside. They ranged in size from fully fed larvae, wandering off to pupate, down to newly emerged ones – a few unhatched ova were also seen. At least 90% of the larvae had been oviposited upon by a parasitic fly of the family Tachinidae; many of the fly larvae had emerged and entered the host leaving a brown scar at the point of entry. Some *A. atropos* larvae had many white ova adhering to their skins (20-30 in some cases on the bigger larvae).– D. HALL, 5 Curborough Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7NG and P.J.C. RUSSELL, Oakmeadow, Wessex Avenue, East Wittering, West Sussex PO20 8NP.

***Eublemma ostrina* (Hb.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in North Hampshire**

A perfect female *Eublemma ostrina* flew to m.v. light here on 1 November 1999. I took several photographs of the specimen, which exhibited the habit of raising its wings just above “shoulder-height” and resettling them immediately. It is not clear whether this was a direct immigrant or whether it had bred locally from an influx earlier in the year but, whichever was the case, it seems that 1 November is the latest UK date on record. There had been only two previous occurrences noted in VC12: 1957 (Micheldever) and 1969 (Martyr Worthy – two). I am grateful to Barry Goater for travelling over promptly and confirming the identification.– ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake’s Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

Millennium butterflies

In reply to Roger Bristow’s note (*antea*: 130), I saw my first butterfly of the Millennium at about 11am on 1 January. I was waiting to take part in an orienteering competition at Bulford Down, Wiltshire and a Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* flew past. When I finished competing, at about midday, a Peacock *Inachis io* flew over.– SARAH PATTON, Eastern Cottage, 2 Watery Lane, Kingsham, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 2XH (E-mail: squirrel@care4free.net).

Lilac Beauty *Apeira syringaria* (L.) (Lep.: Geometridae): a second generation specimen at Charlecote, Warwick

The interesting note by B.K. West (*antea*: 83) on second generation *Apeira syringaria* prompted me to report the capture of an under-sized specimen in my garden mv light trap on 12 September 1999.

This was followed by two more unexpected guests – a Comma butterfly *Polygonia c-album* (L.) on 20 September and a Migrant Hawker dragonfly *Aeshna mixta* (Latr.) on 22 September, both resting comfortably in the egg cartons.– DAVID BROWN, Jacksons Lawn, Charlecote, Warwick CV35 9EW.